

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12 (cancelled).

13 (currently amended). A process for producing a biodegradable fibre-reinforced shaped composite comprising providing a shaped preform of reinforcing fibres in a mould or tool, introducing into the tool or mould containing the preform a composition comprising ~~monomers, co-monomers, oligomers or resin of a polymer matrix,~~ and partially or substantially polymerising the composition to form a polymer in the mould or tool.

14 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the fibres in the preform have a predetermined regular, irregular or profiled fibre distribution, orientation and/or fraction.

15 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 14 wherein the distribution, orientation and/or fraction of the fibres in the fibre preform is retained on introduction of the composition into the mould or tool.

16 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the polymer and the fibres are selected to have different biodegradation rates.

17 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the polymer

is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers of aliphatic polyesters.

18 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 17 wherein the polymer comprises poly- ϵ -caprolactone.

19 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the fibre reinforcement is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a)ceramics;
- (b)bioglasses:
- (c)mixtures of silica, sodium oxide, calcium oxide and phosphorus pentoxide; and
- (d)polymers and co-polymers of aliphatic polyesters.

20 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic polymer.

21 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the fibres of the preform are continuous or long fibres.

22 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the fibres are long continuous fibres which are 10^2 - 10^4 times greater in length than diameter.

23 (previously presented). A process according to Claim 13 wherein the polymer

impregnates the fibres of the preform.

24-37 (cancelled).

38 (currently amended). A process according to claim 1 wherein the composition is introduced into the mould or tool by injection~~for producing a biodegradable_fibre-reinforced shaped composite comprising providing a shaped preform of reinforcing fibres in a mould or tool, injecting into the tool or mould containing the preform a composition comprising monomers, co-monomers, oligomers or resin of a polymer matrix, and partially or substantially polymerising the composition to form a polymer in the mould or tool.~~

39-40 (cancelled).